

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

1. (Currently Amended) A data service apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing digital data;

an encryption circuit ~~that encrypts~~ for encrypting digital data into encrypted data; [[and]]

a decryption circuit ~~that decrypts~~ for decrypting encrypted data into its initial digital data, and wherein

digital data, to be backed up, ~~of digital data~~ stored in the storage means is extracted, encrypted by the encryption circuit into encrypted data and stored in an external storage unit; and

encrypted data, to be decrypted, ~~of the encrypted data~~ stored in the external storage unit is extracted, decrypted by the decryption circuit into the initial digital data and written back to the storage means.

2. (Currently Amended) The data service apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an identification code generation circuit ~~that generates~~ for generating an identification code unique to the data service apparatus itself, [[and]] wherein

the encryption circuit performs the encryption according

to the identification code generated by the identification code generation circuit; and

the decryption circuit performs the decryption according to the identification code generated by the identification code generation circuit.

3. (Currently Amended) The data service apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a falsification detection circuit ~~that checks~~ for checking, when decrypting the digital data from the encrypted data, the digital data according to the identification code generated by the identification code generation circuit, and ~~inhibits~~ for inhibiting the initial digital data from being written back to the storage means when it is found, ~~by the checking,~~ that the digital data has been falsified.

4. (Currently Amended) The data service apparatus according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 3, further comprising a comparison circuit ~~that makes~~ for making a comparison in attribute data between the digital data in the storage means and ~~that~~ the digital data stored in the external storage unit,
[[and]] wherein

digital data, updated after previously backed up in the external storage unit, ~~of the digital data~~ stored in the storage means is stored into the external storage unit

according to a ~~result of~~ comparison result from the comparison circuit.

5. (Currently Amended) The data service apparatus according to ~~any of claims 1, 2, 3 and~~ claim 4, further comprising:

a detection circuit ~~that detects~~ for detecting an optimum file of digital data for storage as a file into the external storage unit;

an aggregation circuit ~~that aggregates~~ for aggregating a plurality of files into one file;

a division circuit ~~that divides~~ for dividing a file into a plurality of files each having a predetermined size;

a synthesis circuit ~~that combines~~ for combining the divided files together into one file; and

a separation circuit ~~that separates~~ for separating one file formed from a plurality of files into the plurality of files, [[and]] wherein

for backup of the digital data:

digital data read by the aggregation circuit from the storage means are aggregated into one file;

the file as a result of the aggregation is divided by the division circuit according to the size detected by the detection circuit; and

the file as a result of the division being stored into the

external storage unit; and wherein

for decryption of the digital data:

the encrypted data stored in the external storage unit are decrypted and ~~then~~ combined by the synthesis circuit into ~~[[its]]~~ an initial one file; and

the file as a result of the synthetic combination is separated by the separation circuit into the plurality of initial digital data and written back to the storage means.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, further comprising a communications circuit ~~that makes~~ for performing information communications with an external certificate server, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein

an inquiry is made about whether the digital data to be decrypted may be restored to the external certificate server via the communications circuit, and the restoration is done only when the communications circuit has received a permission of restoration from the external certificate circuit.